

Including Evidence-Based Assertions in Encoded Archival Standards

Fifth draft, submitted by Mark Custer

[Background](#)

[Suggested Approach](#)

[Sample Encoding](#)

[Use Case 1](#)

[Use Case 2](#)

[Use Case 3](#)

[Use Case 4](#)

[Questions](#)

Background

For a summary of the previous proposals, see

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1o18Wa2BgtuQ46ixPXMsOc2iRI4m4zR_5QfUtcOVMaeGA/edit?usp=sharing

And:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pnFmvNbYHaqvKardFOTp41XjEZD3r2feoQo44zIIFDk/edit?usp=sharing> (slight variation of the proposal below)

Suggested Approach

I propose that we add just one new element (“citedRange”) to the pre-existing “source” element, in addition to two new attributes (@sourceLink and @maintenanceEventLink), which would be available to most elements within EAC-CPF’s description, identity, and relation sections. These three additions provide the ability to add supporting evidence to assertions in EAC in a standards-based way that also fulfills the scholarly need to provide detailed citations.

Additionally, I propose that we replace <sourceEntry/> with <citation/>.

The basic data model for the additions, as proposed, would be:

- **@sourceLink** (Expected to provide a link to one, or more, of the source elements listed in the control section)
- **@maintenanceEventLink** (Expected to provide a link to one, or more, of the maintenanceEvent elements listed in the control section)
- **citedRange** (child of source, 0 to unbounded)
 - @unit (optional. can be used to specify where the cited range of materials represents a page number, volume number, etc. This attribute is already available in EAD)
 - @id, @lang, @script, @transliteration
 - [text]

Let's look at some sample encodings...

Sample Encoding

Use Case 1

An example of encoding two conflicting assertions (in this case, birth date), with the second assertion including evidence:

```
<sources>
  <source id="source1"
href="https://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/aug/10/langston-hughes-born-a-year-before-accepted-da
te-poet">
    <citation>"Langston Hughes 'born a year before accepted date', researcher finds."</citation>
    <descriptiveNote>
      <p>Multiple newspaper articles in 1901 reference Langston Hughes and his mother
      prior to Langston's established birth year of 1902.</p>
    </descriptiveNote>
  </source>
</sources>

...
<existDates>
  <dateRange>
    <fromDate sourceLink="#source1" standardDate="1901-02-01">Feb 1, 1901</fromDate>
```

```

    <toDate standardDate="1967-05-22">May 22, 1967</toDate>
  </dateRange>
</existDates>

<existDates audience="internal">
  <dateRange>
    <fromDate standardDate="1902-02-01">
    <toDate standardDate="1967-05-22"/>
  </dateRange>
</existDates>

```

Use Case 2

An example of providing evidence for exactly why (and when and by whom) a certain name form has been recorded. In this case, the name form was found printed on a first edition of one of the author's works:

```

...
<maintenanceEvent id="maintenance-event-2">
  <eventType>revised</eventType>
  <eventDateTime standardDateTime="2019-07-15"/>
  <agentType>human</agentType>
  <agent>M. E.</agent>
</maintenanceEvent>
</maintenanceHistory>

<sources>
  <source id="source2" href="http://hdl.handle.net/10079/bibid/1164279">
    <citation>For colored girls who have considered suicide, when the rainbow is enuf / Ntosake [sic]
Shange ; [drawings by Wopo Holup].</citation>
    <citedRange>title page</citedRange>
    <descriptiveNote>
      <p>On the title page of Shange's first work of published poetry, her name is printed as
Ntosake</p>
    </descriptiveNote>
  </source>
</sources>
</control>
<cpfDescription>
  <identity>
    <entityType>person</entityType>

```

```

<nameEntry>
  <part>Shange, Ntozake.</part>
</nameEntry>

```

```

<nameEntry maintenanceEventLink="#maintenance-event-2">
  <part>Shange</part>
  <part sourceLink="#source2">Ntosake</part>
</nameEntry>

```

```

<nameEntry>
  <part>Williams, Paulette L., 1948-</part>
</nameEntry>

```

```

</identity>

```

...

Note the use of the citedRange element in this case to indicate where exactly the evidence was found on the source. Additionally, we can add the @sourceLink attribute directly to the name part in question, without having to complicate the EAC record by providing an “evidence” element in the body of the EAC file. Finally, note that we could also use the maintenanceEventLink attribute in this case directly on the part element (i.e. the same element that has the sourceLink attribute), if desired / needed.

Use Case 3

An example of linking conflicting assertions to two different sections of the same source. Now, the suggestion is just to repeat that source element.

```

<source id="source3-citation1" href="http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/47811007">
  <citation>Harman, Claire. 2001. <span localType="title">Fanny Burney: a
    biography</span>. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.</citation>
  <citedRange unit="page">312</citedRange>
  <descriptiveNote>
    <p>Fascinating new evidence presented about the true date of Fanny's death.</p>
  </descriptiveNote>
</source>
<source id="source3-citation2" href="http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/47811007">
  <citation>Harman, Claire. 2001. <span localType="title">Fanny Burney: a
    biography</span>. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.</citation>
  <citedRange unit="page">353</citedRange>

```

<!-- See objectXMLWrap as a better example, using TEI to encode the citation... but other things like CSL, etc., could also be used. -->

```
<objectXMLWrap>
  <biblStruct xmlns="http://www.tei-c.org/ns/1.0">
    <monogr>
      <author>
        <persName>
          <forename>Harman</forename>
          <surname>Claire</surname>
        </persName>
        <idno type="scopus">37083592200</idno>
        <idno type="lcaf">http://id.loc.gov/authorities/names/n83006657</idno>
      </author>
      <title level="m">Fanny Burney: A Biography</title>
      <imprint>
        <pubPlace>New York</pubPlace>
        <publisher>Alfred A. Knopf</publisher>
        <date when="2001-08-21"/>
      </imprint>
    </monogr>
  </biblStruct>
</objectXMLWrap>
</source>

....

<place id="place-1" snac:relatedAssertion="#place-2" snac:assertionRank="deprecated">
  <placeRole>death</placeRole>
  <placeEntry vocabularySource="lcsch">Bristol (England)</placeEntry>
  <date standardDate="1821">1821</date>
</place>

<place id="place-2" snac:relatedAssertion="#place-1" snac:assertionRank="preferred">
  <placeRole>death</placeRole>
  <placeEntry sourceLink="#source3-citation2" vocabularySource="lcsch">Newport
(England)</placeEntry>
  <date sourceLink="#source3-citation1" standardDate="1822">1822</date>
</place>
```

Note here the use of the snac:relatedAssertion attribute (in a local namespace) to unambiguously link the sibling place elements. This would certainly not be required, but it could be helpful for constructing user interfaces, or visualizing the data, especially when the assertionRank attributes were absent or set to a value like “normal” instead of “preferred”.

Additionally, it is much easier to fulfill this particular use case by expanding “source” than it is to add “evidence” as a new element.

Use Case 4

An example of two relationships: one with a description but no source, and another that has been linked to an archival source:

```
<source id="source4" href="http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:FHCL.Hough:h00264">
  <citation>Hester Lynch Piozzi Manuscripts, 1765-1820.</citation>
  <citedRange unit="box">I</citedRange>
  <citedRange unit="folder">I-5</citedRange>
  <descriptiveNote><p>The letters in folders I-5 detail that the Thrales ordered a series of
thirteen paintings from Reynolds for their library.</p></descriptiveNote>
</source>

....
<!-- friendOf relationship, with no evidence -->
<cpfRelation cpfRelationType="associative"
  arcrole="http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:FHCL.Hough:I 2242299"
  href="http://hdl.handle.net/I 0079/k0p2nt3"
  mobid:cpfRelationType="http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:FHCL.Hough:I 2242299">
  <relationEntry>Reynolds, Joshua, Sir, 1723-1792</relationEntry>
  <descriptiveNote>
    <p>Friend and frequent guest of the Thrales.</p>
  </descriptiveNote>
</cpfRelation>

<!-- employedBy relationship, with evidence -->
<cpfRelation sourceLink="#source4" cpfRelationType="associative"
  arcrole="http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:FHCL.Hough:I 2242301"
  href="http://hdl.handle.net/I 0079/k0p2nt3">
  <relationEntry>Reynolds, Joshua, Sir, 1723-1792</relationEntry>
  <descriptiveNote>
    <p>Not much is known about this business relationship, nor if it continued beyond this
transaction.</p>
  </descriptiveNote>
</cpfRelation>
```

Questions

1. ... post-grouping of sources vs. pre grouping.
2. ... still doesn't solve another issue. How to link to a description ABOUT a resource (i.e. bib record) vs. the ACTUAL resource (i.e. the text). (similar to the authority record vs. "real-world object" problem, e.g. \$0 vs. \$1). I assume a solution for this will come out of the discussion around "relations" (maybe some combo of `arcrole`, `localType`, etc.)